

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SPC-03 AID-20 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 SCEM-02 L-03 H-03

PA-04 PRS-01 DODE-00 INT-08 NEA-10 IO-14 DRC-01 /188 W

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O R 281644Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8564

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY THERAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 5200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENGR, OECD, OPEC, SZ

SUBJECT: OPEC PRICE INCREASES; INTERNATIONAL OIL SITUATION

REF: BERN 5183 (NOTAL)

1. LEVY OF SWISS DIVISION OF COMMERCE GAVE EMBOFF
DEC 28 COORDINATED GOS REACTION TO EMBASSY APPROACH
REPORTED REFTEL MADE ON BASIS INSTRUCTIONS STATE TELS
249382 AND 249803.

2. LEVY SAID THAT SWITZERLAND SHARES USG CONCERN RE
POSSIBLY DANGEROUS IMPACT ON WORLD ECONOMY OF CRUDE
PRICE INCREASES. HOWEVER, AS A SMALL CONSUMER COUNTRY
WITHOUT A DIRECT IMPORT RELATIONSHIP WITH PRODUCERS AND
WITHOUT AN OIL COMPANY BASED IN SWITZERLAND, GOS DOES
NOT INTEND TO MAKE DEMARCHE TO OPEC GOVERNMENTS AT THIS
TIME. LEVY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT GOS WOULD SERIOUSLY
CONSIDER MAKING SUCH AN APPROACH AT LATER STAGE WHEN
MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ON SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT ON
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WORLD ECONOMY, AND PARTICULARLY SWISS ECONOMY, OF RECENT

PRICE INCREASES WAS AVAILABLE. GOS WAS MAKING OWN ANALYSIS AND LOOKED FORWARD TO RECEIVING OECD SECRETARIAT VIEWS. INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AFTERNOON JANUARY 4 TO ASSESS SITUATION AND DECIDE WHAT FURTHER MEASURES, IF ANY, SHOULD BE TAKEN. LEVY SAID THAT IN THIS CONNECTION AND ALSO RELEVANT TO POSSIBLE GOS APPROACHES TO OPEC COUNTRIES WOULD BE AGENDA AND EXPECTED RESULTS OF JAN 7 OPEC/GENEVA CONFERENCE, SPECIFICALLY QUESTION OF WHETHER PRIMARY PURPOSE WOULD BE TO CONFIRM PAST ACTIONS OR TO TAKE NEW STEPS.

3. LEVY CONCLUDED WITH PERSONAL OBSERVATION THAT SWISS HAD FOUND SHAH'S IDEAS EXPRESSED AT DEC 23 PRESS CONFERENCE (TEHRAN 9031) VERY INTERESTING, ESPECIALLY APPEAL FOR CLOSER PRODUCER/CONSUMER COUNTRY COOPERATION. HE HOPED THIS COULD BE DISCUSSED AT OECD OR ELSEWHERE.
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